

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 5, 2012
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Lew Bradley, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: “DAV Update” – Patrick Young, Navy veteran, DAV Veterans Advocate

Mr. Young related a story about how Roger Ferland, attorney-at-law, worked pro bono on several Nehmer cases (Nehmer v. Department of Veterans Affairs). Also, in January 2010 there was a beneficial tax law change as a result of DAV’s efforts. DAV helps veterans by spending down 1.3 million of donated funds through the Arizona Disabled Veterans Foundation (ADVF, a nonprofit organization), not to be confused with the Arizona Veterans Foundation in Tempe. To contact Patrick: email aznsol1@cox.net, 623.330.8215 cell.

PRESENTATION: “USO ARIZONA Update” – Anne Theodosius, Director, and Don Taylor, USO ARIZONA Advisory Council

USO ARIZONA serves 7 military installations (Luke, Yuma, Fort Huachuca, Davis-Monthan, Marana, Papago, and 161st Air Wing). Projects have included “Wounded Warrior,” “Operation Enduring Care,” and “Wounded and Family Care.” The lease at Terminal 4 was approved this week, the opening is anticipated in November. Funds have been received from TRIWEST and other companies. The Center in Terminal 2 will close. Another strategic partner is Fry’s (Kroger).

Who can use the USO? 1) Active duty troops and families, 2) retired and reservists on orders, and 3) at the discretion of the Director. Newly arriving Program Manager will be Lynn Buska who has served 2 years in Afghanistan.

Anne Theodosius, Director: atheodosius@uso.org

PRESENTATION: “Repair Projects at Wesley Bolin Plaza” – MAJ Paul Ellis, Arizona Army National Guard

MAJ Ellis reported on repair projects at Wesley Bolin Plaza that the Arizona Army National Guard has been working on such as the Vietnam Veterans memorial and the USS ARIZONA anchor. In the past three years 120 volunteers have cleaned several memorials at Bolin Plaza. 400 tons of rock have been hauled in. Flowers have been planted. Materials and supplies have been donated by companies such as Hunter Contracting and Sherwin-Williams Paints. MAJ Ellis is establishing The Arizona War Memorial Foundation, a 501©(3) nonprofit organization to be a volunteer clean up, maintenance and watchdog organization for Wesley Bolin Plaza. MAJ Ellis has been

working with the In-Country Vietnam Veterans, Construction Managers Association, the Society of American Military Engineers, and the Arizona Dept of Administration.

MAJ Ellis is the Assistant Director of Resource Management, Construction & Facilities Management, Arizona Army National Guard: paul.j.ellis@us.army.mil, 602.267.2475. www.azmemorials.org

ROLL CALL: Quorum established for conducting business.

April 7, 2012 Minutes: Motion to approve by Secretary Culbertson, seconded by Art Sloane. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS – Chaplain Bohach

MGEN Donald L. Owens, former TAG, AZ Army National Guard, passed May 2nd. Larry Braden, Vietnam veteran, Palominas, AZ, passed May 4th, stroke.

REPORTS:

1. Congressman Schweikert's Office: Dan Caldwell, Outreach representative, reported a successful job fair on April 20th where Melissa Lange referred employers and Terry Araman reported that a veteran living at the MANA House Phoenix got a job. Upcoming events and visits: Rep Schweikert mobile office operational in June; June 1st – American Legion Post 44 Scottsdale; June 15th - American Legion, Post 58, Fountain Hills. A 100,000 troops cut is predicted for 2017, Army and Marine Corps will be most impacted with each losing 22,000. There will likely be an impact on MCAS Yuma as well as increased workload on the VA Health Care System. Good news, the VA is exempt from sequestration and will see a budget increase this year. Legislative Update: HR 4072, consolidation of VA services, has left the House and on to the Senate. HR 3895, Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012, has no point now due to the VA exemption from sequestration. HR4048, Improving Contracting Opportunities for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, not to Committee yet. Daniel Caldwell, Outreach: Daniel.Caldwell@mail.house.gov, 480.946.2411.

2. VAMC Phoenix: Sarah Nelson, Supervisory Patient Advocate

There are 2 staff members now, and there is a PACT team (Patient Aligned Care Team) at each clinic. Sarah advised that if a patient's request is not acted upon in a timely manner, then call her at: 602.277.5551 ext. 6171. Sarah said the definition of "a timely manner" is 24 hours. Sarah received 3 patients' inquiries from the audience. Good news, Sarah's son is graduating from Army boot camp the week of May 7th.

3. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services: Dave Hampton representing Director Strickland

February survey of Tucson Veteran Home went well. The Sierra Vista State Cemetery is moving forward with a \$5 million upgrade including 2 new columbaria. Camp Navajo Veterans Cemetery moving forward. A future 120-bed Veteran Home is planned within the next 10 years. Military Family Relief Fund: SB1190 has extended the tax credit, all dates are now 2018. 50 recent requests for financial assistance: \$181,000 making the total assistance \$925,000 since the MFRF was implemented. The 4th Annual Arizona Women's Military Veteran Conference is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th, 8 am to 5 pm, at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium, Phoenix. Women Veteran license plates are now available at: www.servicearizona.com. The Arizona Legislature adjourned on Thursday evening, May 3, all the Dept's bills passed: SB1058 – extended AZDVS for 10 years; SB1126, WWII Memorial; SB1190, Military Family Relief Fund; SB1291, Veterans Donation Fund; and HB 2428 Veterans benefits, reservists.

4. UAV Board of Directors: Chairman Bradley reported that 71 Nomination packets have been logged in for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2012.

5. UAV Legislative Committee: Chairman Lionel Sanchez announced that the Legislative Committee consists of Dan Caldwell, Bob Skopac, and Sharon Woods, with Dave Hampton as consultant. Lionel distributed copies of the Copper Shield Award Nomination Form (Legislator of the Year Award); nominations are due on Monday, Sept. 3rd via U.S. mail to: Lionel Sanchez, 3602 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix 85015. To contact Lionel: unlionel@aol.com, 602.332.5325.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. New UAV Web Site, www.azuav.org – Chairman Bradley reported that the new UAV web site is being established for a 3 year period at the cost of approximately \$400.00. Motion made by Bob Madden to fund the \$400, seconded by George Cushing. Motion passed.

Vice Chair Madden reported that the AZUAV.org web site will be profiling veterans and veterans service organizations; he invited/requested input from all representatives to the UAV.

2. UAV on Facebook – Justin Henry volunteered to help with UAV's Business Facebook.

3. UAV Director Vacancy – Chairman Bradley asked for a volunteer before appointing someone. Gene Crego and Bob Skopac expressed their willingness to serve in a Director's capacity.

4. Willingness to help repair the memorials at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Motion by Donna Adams, seconded by Secretary Culbertson. Motion passed. MAJ Ellis will get back to us.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Arrival of the Battleship Guns – Phil Hanson reported on the arrival in Phoenix of two battleship guns from the USS ARIZONA and the USS MISSOURI. The gun barrels can be seen at 19th Avenue and Jackson. The estimated cost of bringing the gun barrels to Phoenix is \$500,000. The dedication ceremony is being planned for Friday, December 7th. Phil noted that Jim Katzenberger, member of the UAV, served on the MISSOURI.

2. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Gene Crego donated his \$40 winnings to the UAV Treasury. Total to the UAV Treasury: \$80.00.

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 2, State Veteran Home, TRAINING ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON
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